

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 13-25 are pending. All pending claims are amended. Applicants submit that the amended claims are in condition for allowance and that the amended claims do not introduce new matter. Support for the amendments is found in the instantly filed specification at pages 13-18.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

Claims 1, 4-8, 13-16, 15, 21, 23 and 25 stand rejected for various reasons under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ("Section 112"). Applicants have made amendments to each of these pending claims, and respectfully submit that the Section 112 rejections no longer apply. Applicants do not, however, accede to the propriety of the Section 112 rejections against the originally pending claims.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection

Claims 1-8 and 13-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Rorstad et al., U.S. Patent 5,401,727 (hereinafter "Rorstad"). Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 1-8 and 13-25 are patentably distinct from Rorstad.

With respect to independent claim 1, Rorstad does not teach or suggest "providing an adjuvant comprising one or more beta-1,3 linkages and one or more beta-1,6 linkages that has been treated with an enzyme that selectively acts on the one or more beta-1,6 linkages, wherein the adjuvant does not induce antibody production against itself." Nor does Rorstad teach or suggest administering the adjuvant to a mammal. Instead, Rorstad administers the compositions disclosed therein exclusively to aquatic life. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is allowable over Rorstad, and that dependent claims 2-7 are allowable as depending from an allowable base or intervening claim.

With respect to independent claim 8, Rorstad does not teach or suggest "administering an adjuvant and vaccine to a mammal and then administering the vaccine without the adjuvant to the mammal after the passage of at least about twenty-four hours, wherein T-cells within the mammal increase after administering the vaccine without the adjuvant." Accordingly, amended

independent claim 8 is allowable over Rorstard and dependent claims 9-16 are likewise allowable as depending from an allowable base or intervening claim.

Finally, with respect to independent claim 17, Rorstard does not teach or suggest “providing an adjuvant that does not induce antibody production against itself” and “administering the adjuvant to a human.” As previously mentioned, Rorstard teaches administering various compositions exclusively to aquatic life. Rorstard does not administer these compositions to humans or indicate the consequences of doing so (*e.g.*, effectiveness, potential risks, etc.) Applicants therefore respectfully submit that amended independent claim 17 is allowable over Rorstard and dependent claims 18-25 are allowable as depending from an allowable base or intervening claim.

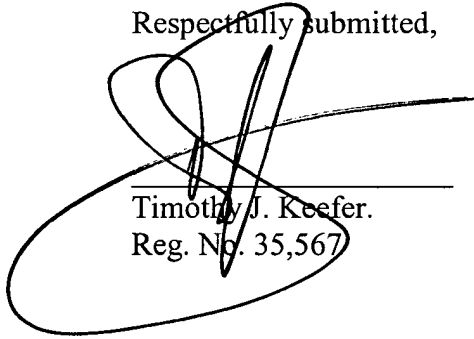
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance and favorable action is earnestly solicited. If, in the Examiner’s opinion, a telephonic interview would expedite allowance of this application, Applicants’ representative can be reached at the telephone number below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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